

Serial No.: 09/697,329

Office Action. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of three (3) months to August 14, 2001 in which to file a reply to the Office Action. The required fee of \$890.00 is enclosed herewith.

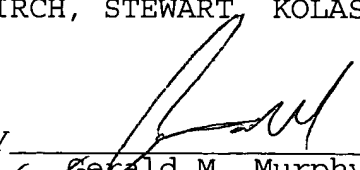
If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he is requested to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

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